# BEFORE THE PHYSICAL THERAPY BOARD DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Accusation	) Case #: 1D 2009 67557
Against:	
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IATamon Computall DT	) \
Warren Cornwell, PT	)
	)
	)
License No. PT 23371	
	<del>-</del>
DECISION	AND ORDER
<b>*</b>	of License and Order is hereby adopted by the
, <u>, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , </u>	Consumer Affairs, State of California, as its
Decision in the above-entitled matter.	
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This decision shall become effective	ans Dan m has) 30,2011
This decision shall become effective	OIL SEG / (NOO 80 / SO 1.1)
It is so ordered on November.	21 2011
It is so ordered on NVVIII	$\frac{30}{2}$
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	fully fame fall
	Sara Takii, 171, DPT, President
$\cdot$	Physical Therapy Board
· · · · · · /	of California

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1	WARALA D. HADDIG	
2	KAMALA D. HARRIS Attorney General of California	
3	GAIL M. HEPPELL Supervising Deputy Attorney General	
4	JANNSEN L. TAN Deputy Attorney General	
5	State Bar No. 237826 1300 I Street, Suite 125	
6	P.O. Box 944255 Sacramento, CA 94244-2550	
7	Telephone: (916) 445-3496 Facsimile: (916) 327-2247	
8	Attorneys for Complainant	
9	1	
10	BEFOF	RE THE
11		OARD OF CALIFORNIA ONSUMER AFFAIRS
12		CALIFORNIA
13		Case No. 1D 2009 67557
14	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case 140. 1D 2009 07357
15	WARREN SCOTT CORNWELL, P.T. 452 West Nees Avenue, #103 Fresno, California 93711	STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND DISCIPLINARY ORDER
16		
17	Physical Therapist License Number PT 23371	
18	Respondent.	
19	It is agreed by and between the pa	arties to this action as follows:
20	PAR	<u>cties</u>
21	1. Rebecca Marco (Complai	nant) is the Interim Executive Officer of the
22	Physical Therapy Board of California (the Board	d) and brought this action solely in her official
23	capacity. Complainant is represented in this man	tter by Edmund G. Brown Jr., Attorney General
24	of the State of California, by Jannsen L. Tan, De	eputy Attorney General.
25	2. Respondent Warren Scott	Cornwell, P.T. (Respondent) is represented in
26	this proceeding by George Strasser of Baker Ma	nock & Jensen, P.C., Attorneys at Law, 5260 N
27	Palm Ave Ste. 421, Fresno, CA 93704.	
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2	PT 23371 to Respondent.
3	relevant to the charges brown
4	2012, unless renewed.
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6	4. Acci
7	pending against Responder
8.	properly served on Respon
9	Accusation. A copy of Ac
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11	5. Res <sub>l</sub>
12	understands the charges an
13	carefully read, fully discus
14	Settlement and Disciplinar
15	6. Res
16	right to a hearing on the ch
17	counsel at his own expense
18	the right to present eviden
19	subpoenas to compel the a
20	reconsideration and court
21	California Administrative
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23	each and every right set fo
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26	Complainant could establi
27	contained Accusation No.
28	9. Res

3. On or about July 2, 1998, the Board issued Physical Therapist license No. PT 23371 to Respondent. The Physical Therapist license was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought in Accusation number 1D 2009 67557 and will expire on July 31, 2012, unless renewed.

#### JURISDICTION

4. Accusation No. 1D 2009 67557 was filed before the Board and is currently pending against Respondent. The Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on Respondent, and Respondent timely filed her Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation. A copy of Accusation No. 1D 2009 67557 is attached as Exhibit A

#### ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

- 5. Respondent has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 1D 2009 67557. Respondent has also carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the effects of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order ("Stipulation".)
- 6. Respondent is fully aware of his legal rights in this matter, including the right to a hearing on the charges and allegations in the Accusation; the right to be represented by counsel at his own expense; the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against him; the right to present evidence and to testify on his own behalf; the right to the issuance of subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents; the right to reconsideration and court review of an adverse decision; and all other rights accorded by the California Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable laws.
- 7. Respondent voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently waives and gives up each and every right set forth above.

#### **CULPABILITY**

- 8. Respondent does not contest that, at an administrative hearing,
  Complainant could establish a prima facie case with respect to the charges and allegations
  contained Accusation No. 1D 2009 67557.
  - 9. Respondent agrees his Physical Therapist license is subject to discipline

and agrees to be bound by the Board's imposition of discipline as set forth in the Disciplinary Order below.

#### **CONTINGENCY**

- of California. Respondent understands and agrees that counsel for Complainant and the staff of the Physical Therapy Board of California may communicate directly with the Board regarding this stipulation and settlement, without notice to or participation by Respondent or his counsel. By signing the Stipulation, Respondent understands and agrees that he may not withdraw his agreement or seek to rescind the Stipulation prior to the time the Board considers and acts upon it. If the Board fails to adopt this Stipulation as its Decision and Order, the Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order shall be of no force or effect, except for this paragraph, it shall be inadmissible in any legal action between the parties, and the Board shall not be disqualified from further action by having considered this matter.
- 11. The parties understand and agree that facsimile copies of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order, including facsimile or electronic signatures thereto, shall have the same force and effect as the originals.
- 12. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree that the Board may, without further notice or formal proceeding, issue and enter the following Disciplinary Order:

#### DISCIPLINARY ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Physical Therapist license No. PT 23371 issued to Respondent Warren Scott Cornwell is revoked. However, the revocation is stayed and Respondent is placed on probation for the period of time beginning on the effective date of this Decision and continuing until Respondent is successfully discharged from the Diversion Program plus one (1) year from the Respondent's discharge.

1. RESTRICTION OF PRACTICE – PRESENCE OF ANOTHER

PHYSICAL THERAPIST REQUIRED Respondent shall be prohibited from working any shift in which there is no other physical therapist on duty. Respondent shall be in the physical

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2.7 28 presence of another physical therapist during each shift Respondent works.

#### RESTRICTION OF PRACTICE-HOME CARE

Respondent shall not provide physical therapy services in a patient's home.

- RESTRICTION OF PRACTICE-SOLO PRACTICE Respondent 3. shall be prohibited from engaging in the solo practice of physical therapy.
- RESTRICTION OF PRACTICE PROHIBITION OF SELF 4. EMPLOYMENT OR OWNERSHIP Respondent shall not be the sole proprietor or partner in the ownership of any business that offers physical therapy services. Respondent shall not be a Board member or an officer or have a majority interest in any corporation that offers or provides physical therapy services.
- RESTRICTION OF PRACTICE- ADMINISTRATION OR POSSESSION OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES Respondent shall not administer or possess any controlled substances as defined in the California Uniform Controlled Substances Act. This prohibition does not apply to medications lawfully prescribed to Respondent for a bona fide illness or condition by a practitioner licensed to prescribe such medications. This restriction shall not apply to the administration of medications by Respondent to persons undergoing physical therapy in the form of iontophoresis – usually performed with a drug called dexamethasone, or in the form of phonophoresis – usually performed with a drug called a hydrocortisone cream.
- PROHIBITION OF POSSESSION OR USE OF CONTROLLED 6. SUBSTANCES/ALCOHOL Respondent shall abstain completely from the personal use or possession of controlled substances as defined by Section 4211 of the Business and Professions Code, or any drugs requiring a prescription. This prohibition does not apply to medications lawfully prescribed to Respondent for a bona fide illness or condition by a practitioner licensed to prescribe such medications. This restriction shall not apply to the administration of medications by Respondent to persons undergoing physical therapy in the form of iontophoresis – usually performed with a drug called dexamethasone, or in the form of phonophoresis – usually

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performed with a drug called a hydrocortisone cream. Respondent shall abstain completely from the use of alcoholic beverages.

- 7. <u>BIOLOGICAL FLUID TESTING</u> Respondent shall immediately submit to biological fluid testing, at Respondent's cost, upon the request of the Board or its designee. A certified copy of any laboratory test results may be received in evidence in any proceedings between the Board and the Respondent. Failure to submit to, or failure to complete the required biological fluid testing, is a violation of probation.
- **RECOVERY PROGRAM** Within 15 days from the effective date of this 8. decision, respondent shall enroll and participate in the Board's Diversion Program at respondent's cost until the diversion program determines that participation in the Diversion Program is no longer necessary. Failure to comply with requirements of the Diversion Program, terminating the program without permission or being expelled for cause shall constitute a violation of probation by respondent and respondent shall be immediately suspended from the practice of physical therapy. Respondent shall comply with all components of the diversion program. This includes the fact that the Board may receive reports on all aspects of respondent's participation in the diversion program. Respondent shall sign a release authorizing the diversion program to report all aspects of the diversion program as requested by the Board or its designee. In the event the Board's diversion program is unavailable, respondent shall participate in a diversion program approved by the Board or its designee. It is hereby acknowledged that respondent is already enrolled in a Board approved Diversion Program called Maximus, and that he has complied with all components of the diversion program, including signing a release authorizing Maximus to report to the Board all aspects of respondent's participation in the diversion program.
- 9. <u>OBEY ALL LAWS</u> Respondent shall obey all federal, state and local laws, and statutes and regulations governing the practice, inspections and reporting, of physical therapy in California and remain in full compliance with any court ordered criminal probation.
- 10. <u>COST RECOVERY</u> Respondent is ordered to reimburse the Board for the actual and reasonable investigative and prosecutorial costs incurred by the Board in the amount of \$2,396.00. Said costs shall be reduced, however, and the remainder forgiven, if

Respondent pays \$1,000.00 within 30 days of the effective date of the Decision. In the event
Respondent fails to pay within thirty (30) days of this Decision, the full amount of costs shall be
immediately due and payable. Failure to pay the ordered reimbursement, or any agreed upon
payment, may constitute a violation of the probation order. The filing of bankruptcy by
Respondent shall not relieve Respondent of his responsibility to reimburse the Board. If
Respondent is in default of his responsibility to reimburse the Board, the Board will collect cost
recovery from the Franchise Tax Board, the Internal Revenue Service or by any other means of
attachment of earned wages legally available to the Board. Failure to fulfill the obligation could
also result in attachment to the Department of Motor Vehicle registrations and/or license
renewals.

- 11. <u>COMPLIANCE WITH ORDERS OF A COURT</u> Respondent shall be in compliance with any valid order of a court. Being found in contempt of any court order is a violation of probation.
- 12. <u>COMPLIANCE WITH CRIMINAL PROBATION AND PAYMENT</u>

  OF RESTITUTION Respondent shall not violate any terms and conditions of any criminal probation and shall be in compliance with any restitution ordered, payments or other orders.
- 13. **QUARTERLY REPORTS** Respondent shall submit quarterly declarations under penalty of perjury on forms provided by the Board, stating whether there has been compliance with all the conditions of probation.
- 14. **PROBATION MONITORING PROGRAM COMPLIANCE**Respondent shall comply with the Board's probation monitoring program.
- 15. <u>INTERVIEW WITH THE BOARD OR ITS DESIGNEE</u> Respondent shall appear in person for interviews with the Board, or its designee, upon request at various intervals.
- 16. NOTIFICATION OF PROBATIONER STATUS TO EMPLOYERS

  Respondent shall notify all present and future employers of the reason for and the terms and conditions of the probation by providing a copy of the Accusation and the Decision and Order, or Stipulated Settlement to the employer, and submit written employer confirmation of receipt to

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the Board within 10 days. The notification(s) shall include the name, address and phone number of the employer, and, if different, the name, address and phone number of the work location.

- 17. NOTIFICATION OF CHANGE OF NAME OR ADDRESS

  Respondent shall notify the Board, in writing, of any and all name and/or address changes within ten (10) days.
- AGENCIES Respondent shall not work for a temporary services agency or registry.
- PHYSICAL THERAPY STUDENT INTERNS OR FOREIGN EDUCATED PHYSICAL

  THERAPIST LICENSE APPLICANTS PROHIBITED Respondent shall not supervise any physical therapy student interns, foreign educated physical therapist license applicants or other individuals accumulating hours or experience in a learning capacity in physical therapy during the entire period of probation. Respondent shall terminate any such supervisory relationship in existence on the effective date of this probation.
- 20. **PROHIBITED USE OF ALIASES** Respondent shall not use aliases and shall be prohibited from using any name which is not his/her legally-recognized name or based upon a legal change of name.
- 21. <u>INTERMITTENT WORK</u> If Respondent works less than 192 hours as a physical therapist or a physical therapist assistant in the physical therapy profession in a period of three months, those months shall not be counted toward satisfaction of the probationary period. Respondent shall notify the Board if he works less than 192 hours in a three-month period.
- during the time Respondent is practicing or performing physical therapy within California. If, during probation, Respondent does not practice or perform within California, Respondent is required to immediately notify the probation monitor in writing of the date that Respondent is practicing or performing physical therapy out of state, and the date of return, if any. Practicing or performing physical therapy by Respondent in California prior to notification to the Board of the Respondent's return will not be credited toward completion of probation. Any order for payment

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of cost recovery shall remain in effect whether or not probation is tolled.

- 23. <u>VIOLATION OF PROBATION</u> Failure to fully comply with any component of any of the probationary terms and conditions is a violation of probation. If respondent violates probation in any respect, the Board, after giving respondent notice and the opportunity to be heard, may revoke probation and carry out the disciplinary order that was stayed. If an accusation or petition to revoke probation is filed against respondent during probation, the Board shall have continuing jurisdiction until the matter is final, and the period of probation shall be extended until the matter is final.
- PEALTH OR OTHER REASONS Following the effective date of this probation, if Respondent ceases practicing or performing physical therapy due to retirement, health or other reasons or is otherwise unable to satisfy the terms and conditions of probation, Respondent may request to surrender his license to the Board. The Board reserves the right to evaluate Respondent's request and to exercise its discretion whether to grant the request or to take any other action deemed appropriate and reasonable under the circumstances. Upon formal acceptance of the tendered license, the terms and conditions of probation shall be tolled until such time as the license is no longer renewable, the Respondent makes application for the renewal of the tendered license or makes application for a new license.
- 25. <u>COMPLETION OF PROBATION</u> Respondent shall comply with all financial obligations required by this Order (e.g., cost recovery, restitution, probation costs) not later than 180 calendar days prior to completion of probation unless otherwise specified in Order. Upon successful completion of probation, respondent's license shall be fully restored.
- ON THE LAWS AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE PRACTICE OR

  PERFORMANCE OF PHYSICAL THERAPY Within 90 days of the effective date of this decision, Respondent shall take and pass the Board's written examination on the laws and regulations governing the practice of physical therapy in California. If Respondent fails to pass the examination, Respondent shall be suspended from the practice of physical therapy until a

1	I have read and fully discussed with Respondent Warren Scott Cornwell the terms
	and conditions and other matters contained in the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary
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3	Order. I approve its form and content.
4	DATED: 9/13/2011
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6	- Lin Strom
7	GÉORGÉ STRASSER  Attorney for Respondent
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10	<u>ENDORSEMENT</u>
11	The foregoing Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby respectfully
12	submitted for consideration by the Physical Therapy Board.
13	
	DATED: Sept 19, 2011.
14	EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Attorney General
15	of the State of California
16	The state of the s
17	JANNSEN L. TAN
18	Deputy Attorney General
19	Attorneys for Complainant
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1	EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
2	Attorney General of California  GAIL M. HEPPELL  Supervising Deputy Attorney General  FIED
3	W. DAVID CORRICK STATE OF CALIFORNIA
4	Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 171827 SACRAMENTO, CA LIPOUND L. 2010
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6	Sacramento, CA 94244-2550 / ( Telephone: (916) 445-3496
. 7	Facsimile: (916) 327-2247 E-mail: <u>David.Corrick@doj.ca.gov</u>
8	Attorneys for Complainant
9	
10	BEFORE THE PHYSICAL THERAPY BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
11	DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA
12	
13	In the Matter of the Accusation Against: Case No. 1D 2009 67557
14	WARREN SCOTT CORNWELL, P.T. 452 West Nees Avenue, #103  ACCUSATION
15	Fresno, California 93711
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17	Physical Therapist License Number PT 23371
18	Respondent.
19	Complainant alleges:
20	PARTIES
21	1. Steven K. Hartzell ("Complainant") brings this Accusation ("Accusation") solely in
22	his official capacity as the Executive Officer of the Physical Therapy Board of California,
23	Department of Consumer Affairs ("Board").
24	2. On or about July 2, 1998, the Board issued physical therapist license number PT
25	23371 ("license") to Warren Scott Cornwell, P.T., ("Respondent"). Said license is renewed and
26	current, and will expire unless renewed on July 31, 2012.
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Accusation (Case No. 1D 2009 67557)

#### JURISDICTION

- 3. This Accusation is brought before the Board under the authority of the statutory provisions set forth, *infra*. All section references are to the California Business and Professions Code ("Code") unless otherwise indicated.
- 4. The practice of physical therapists is governed by the Physical Therapy Practice Act, which is codified at Code sections 2600-2695. The practice of physical therapists is also governed by the provisions of the Medical Practice Act, which is codified at Code sections 2000 et. seq. And, as pursuant to section 101(ab), the Board falls under the penumbra of the Department of Consumer Affairs, Code sections 475-499 provide statutory authority relative to the denial, suspension, and revocation of licenses issued by the Board.
- 5. Under Code section 2602, the Board is statutorily charged with the enforcement and administration of, *inter alia*, disciplinary actions against its licensees. Pursuant to Code section 2602.1, public protection is mandated to be the Board's highest priority.
  - 6. Section 2609 of the Code states:

The [B]oard shall issue, suspend, and revoke licenses and approvals to practice physical therapy as provided in this chapter.

7. Section 2660 of the Code, in relevant part, provides:

The [B]oard may, after the conduct of appropriate proceedings under the Administrative Procedure Act, suspend for not more than 12 months, or revoke, or impose probationary conditions upon any license, certificate, or approval issued under this chapter for unprofessional conduct that includes, but is not limited to, one or any combination of the following causes:

- (e) Habitual intemperance.
- (f) Addiction to the excessive use of any habit-forming drug.
- (g) Gross negligence in his or her practice as a physical therapist or physical therapist assistant.
- 8. Under section 2234 of the Code, a licensee who is charged with unprofessional conduct is subject to disciplinary action by the Board.

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9. Section 2239(a) of the Code provides, in relevant part, as follows:

[T]he use of...alcoholic beverages, to the extent, or in such a manner as to be dangerous or injurious to the licensee, or to any other person or to the public, or to the extent that such use impairs the ability of the licensee to practice medicine safely, or more than one misdemeanor...involving the use, consumption, or self-administration of any of the substances referred to in this section...constitutes unprofessional conduct. The record of the conviction is conclusive evidence of such unprofessional conduct.

10. Section 2661.5(a) of the Code provides:

In any order issued in resolution of a disciplinary proceeding before the [B]oard, the [B]oard may request the administrative law judge to direct any licensee found guilty of unprofessional conduct to pay to the board a sum not to exceed the actual and reasonable costs of investigation and prosecution of the case.

### FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Gross Negligence) [B&P Code § 2660(g)]

- 11. Respondent is a physical therapist. At the time the events giving rise to the instant Accusation occurred, Respondent was employed by a company called CareerStaff Unlimited ("CSU"), which contracts to provide physical therapy services to patients in a variety of settings, including hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, outpatient treatment centers, and schools.
- 12. On or about July 17, 2009, Respondent was working as a physical therapist at Madera Community Hospital ("MCH") in Madera, California, pursuant to a contract for services between CSU and MCH. On that day, multiple patients and other staff members noted that Respondent smelled of alcohol. As a result of those complaints, Respondent was asked to consent to a drug and alcohol screen pursuant to MCH's drug-free workplace policy, to which he agreed.
- 13. At approximately 11:58 a.m., a blood sample was collected from Respondent, and at approximately 12:05 p.m., a urine sample was collected from Respondent. Prior to submitting to the blood and urine collection, Respondent denied having had any alcohol that day. He did

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state that he "drinks at night to relax", and that he had consumed alcohol the previous night. The urinalysis was positive for the presence of alcohol in an unspecified amount, while the blood sample indicated a blood alcohol level of .12%. Respondent was subsequently terminated from his employment for coming to work while under the influence of alcohol.

- Affairs Division of Investigation, interviewed Respondent regarding the events of July 17, 2009. During the interview, Respondent agreed that his blood alcohol level that day was indicative of being impaired in performing his duties as a physical therapist. Respondent stated that prior to testing positive for alcohol on July 17, 2009, he had been trying to quit drinking on his own for approximately 8-9 months, but had been unsuccessful in his efforts. Respondent admitted to the investigator that he had developed a physical dependence to alcohol, and that he was consuming up to ten drinks per day.
- 15. Following Respondent's positive blood alcohol screen, at least two of Respondent's co-workers at MCH reported having smelled alcohol beverages on Respondent's person on more than one occasion prior to the July 17, 2009, blood alcohol screen. They also reported having seen Respondent sleeping during working hours while he was on duty.
- 16. Respondent's behavior in providing and/or attempting to provide physical therapy services to MCH patients on or about July 17, 2009, while under the influence of alcohol constitutes an extreme departure from the standard of care, and thereby subjects Respondent's physical therapist license to discipline pursuant to Code § 2660(g).

# SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE (Use of Alcohol in an Injurious or Dangerous Manner) [B&P Code § 2239(a)]

- 17. Complainant hereby incorporates paragraphs 12-15 of the instant Accusation as though fully set forth herein.
- 18. Respondent's behavior in being under the influence of alcohol while providing services as a physical therapist constitutes unprofessional conduct, and subjects Respondent's physical therapist license to discipline pursuant to Code § 2239(a).

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# DECLARATION OF SERVICE BY CERTIFIED MAIL

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

## Warren Scott Cornwell, PT

I, the undersigned, declare that I am over 18 years of age and not a party to the within cause; my business address is 2005 Evergreen St, Suite 1350, Sacramento, California 95815. I served a true copy of the attached:

STATEMENT TO RESPONDENT; ACCUSATION; REQUEST FOR DISCOVERY; GOVERNMENT CODE SECTIONS 11507.5; 11507.6; 11507.7; NOTICE OF DEFENSE FORM (2)

by mail on each of the following, by placing same in an envelope (or envelopes) addressed (respectively) as follows:

## NAME AND ADDRESS

Warren Scott Cornwell West Nees Avenue, #103 Fresno, CA 93711

W. David Corrick, DAG 1300 I Street, Suite 125 Sacramento, CA 94244-2550

Said envelopes were then, on November 12, 2010 seal of States mail in Sacramento, California, the county in was mail with the postage thereon fully prepaid, and return

Executed on November 12, 2010 in Sacramento, Cali Executed on November 12, 2010 in Sacramento, C

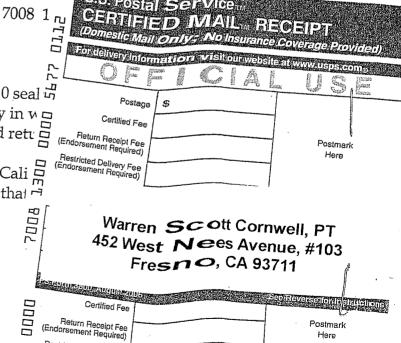
Susan Burrows, DECLARANT

#### CERT No.

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W. DAVID CORRICK, DAG

1300 I STREET, SUITE 125

P.O. **B** X 944255

SACRAMENT